

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) In a network environment, a method for detecting a proximity of multiple client stations and identifying proximate client stations to a one or more of the client station, the method comprising:

obtaining signal strength data of a first client station with respect to signals received by the first client station from at least one stationary base station wherein the first client station is mobile;

obtaining signal strength data of other client stations with respect to signals received by the other client stations from the at least one stationary base station, the other client stations and the first client station being remote to the at least one stationary base station and wherein at least one of the other client stations is mobile;

comparing the signal strength data of the first client station with the signal strength data of the other client stations;

remote from the first client station and the other client stations, determining that the first client station is proximate one or more of the other client stations based on the signal strength data of the first client station and of the other client stations to the at least one stationary base station; and

sending to the first client station an identification of the one or more other client stations determined to be proximate the first client station.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first client station comprises scanning at the first client station for radio signals at radio frequencies.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein scanning for radio signals comprises scanning a subset of channels.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein scanning for radio signals comprises performing a passive scan.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein scanning for radio signals comprises performing an active scan.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising mathematically smoothing a plurality of signal strength data into a smoothed value.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first client station comprises receiving a report from the first client station at a server.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the report is received on a regular basis from the first client station.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the report is received as determined by the first client station.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the other client stations comprise a second client station, and wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first client station comprises receiving a report at the second client station from the first client station.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein comparing the signal strength data comprises evaluating a number of base stations in common between the first client station and the one or more other client stations.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the signal strength data of the first client station comprises a first set of signal strength values, each value associated with each base station of a plurality of base stations seen by the first client station, and wherein the signal strength data of other client stations comprises a second set of signal strength values, each value paired with each base station of a plurality of base stations seen by a second client station corresponding to the other client stations, and wherein comparing the signal strength data comprises evaluating signal strength values for base stations seen in common by the first device and the second client station.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein evaluating signal strength values for base stations seen in common comprises, ordering base stations seen in common by signal strength values into a first ordering for the first client station and a second ordering for the second client station, and determining similarity between the first ordering and the second ordering.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a server determines that the one or more other client stations are proximate the first client station, and further comprising, the server returning proximity-related data to the first client station that corresponds to the one or more other client stations determined to be proximate the first client station.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising, at the first client station, querying a database based on the proximity-related data for additional information corresponding to the one or more other client stations determined to be proximate the first client station.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the one or more other client stations determined to be proximate the first client station comprises a second client station, and further comprising, receiving at the first client station additional information including biographical information corresponding to a user of the second client station.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein identifying to the first client station the one or more other client stations determined to be proximate the first client station comprises transmitting a list of at least one proximate client, including proximity-related data corresponding to the client, to the first client station.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the one or more other client stations comprises a second client station, wherein a server receives signal strength data from the second client station, and wherein the server returning proximity-related data to the first client station that corresponds to the second client station comprises transmitting the signal strength data of the second client station to the first client station.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein determining that the first client station is proximate the second client station comprises processing the signal strength data of the second client station at the first client station.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or more of the other client stations is fixed, and further comprising, providing a simulated signal strength for the fixed network resource.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

24. (Previously Presented) In a network environment, a system for obtaining at a client device information corresponding to other client devices located near the client device, the system comprising:

a client device having an output mechanism for providing information to a user of the client device wherein the client device is mobile, the client device further having a client program that detects signal strengths based on signals received by the client device from one or more base stations, the client program further being configured to:

report the detected signal strengths to a second network entity;

receive proximity-related data corresponding to the one or more separate client stations from the second network entity, wherein at least one of the one or more separate client stations is mobile, wherein the proximity-related data relates to which of the one or more separate client stations are proximate the client device as determined by the second network entity base on signal strengths of the one or more separate client stations detected based on signals received by the one or more separate client stations from the one or more base stations, and wherein the client device and the one or more separate client stations are remote to the second network entity and the one or more base stations; and

present to the user of the client device information that corresponds to the proximity-related data of the one or more separate client stations on the output mechanism of the client device, based on proximity of the client device and the one or more separate client stations to the one or more base stations.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the second network entity comprises a server.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the second network entity comprises a different client device in the network.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the proximity-related data comprises a list of other client stations that are proximate the client device.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the client device is a first mobile client device and wherein the one or more separate client stations comprises at least one other mobile client device.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the client program of the first client device processes the signal strengths of the one or more separate client stations to determine which other client stations are proximate the client device.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the client program receives the proximity-related data from a server.

31. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the output mechanism comprises a display.

32. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a database, wherein the client program accesses the database to present the information that corresponds to the proximity-related data on the output mechanism of the client device.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the one or more separate client stations comprises another client device, and wherein the database returns biographical data corresponding to a user of the another client device for display on the client device.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the one or more separate client stations comprises a plurality of stations and wherein one of the plurality of stations comprises a printer.

35. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the network comprises a wireless 802.11 network.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more of the other client stations determined to be proximate the first client station includes a network resource not having wireless capabilities, and wherein the signal strength data of the network resource not having wireless capabilities and determined to be proximate the first client station is a simulated wireless signal strength.

38. (Previously Presented) In a wireless network having one or more base stations providing a wireless signal to a plurality of mobile client devices, a method for notifying users of one or more mobile client devices of the proximity of other users of mobile client devices, the method comprising:

obtaining signal strength data of a first mobile client device with respect to signals received by the first mobile client device from at least one stationary base station;

obtaining signal strength data of a second mobile client device with respect to signals received by the second mobile client device from the at least one stationary base station;

at the one or more base stations and remote from the plurality of mobile client devices:

comparing the signal strength data of the first mobile client device with the signal strength data of the second mobile client device;

determining that the first mobile client device is located at a geographic location that is proximate a geographic location of the second mobile client device; and

sending to the first mobile client device a notice that the first mobile client device is located near the second mobile client device, the notice to the first mobile client device including at least an identity of the user of the second mobile client device.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

obtaining simulated signal strength data of a non-networked, non-electronic, fixed resource participating in proximity detection relative to the first mobile client, wherein the simulated signal strength is an equivalent signal strength were the fixed resource a mobile client device, and is reported by a mobile device positioned near the fixed resource and on behalf of the fixed resource;

at the one or more base stations and remote from the plurality of mobile client devices and remote from the fixed resource:

comparing the signal strength data of the first and second mobile client devices with the simulated signal strength data of the fixed resource, such that the one or more base stations treat the fixed resource as if it was a mobile device;

determining that the second mobile client is located at a geographic location that is proximate a geographic location of the fixed resource; and

sending to the second mobile client a notice that the second mobile client is located near the fixed resource, the notice to the second mobile client including a type of resource that is the fixed resource.